

For Immediate Release: Fall 2003

The Chair's recent communication with Lieutenant General Ricardo S. Sanchez and his family

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting with Lieutenant General Ricardo S. Sanchez's family. Surprisingly, I was able to also visit with Lieutenant General Sanchez himself, when he called into the family.

Lt. Sanchez is a native of Rio Grande City and is commander of the U.S. Army's V Corps and coalition forces in Iraq. He began his military career with the 82nd Airborne Division and later became deputy chief of staff of the U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Florida before being named director of operations for the U.S. Southern Command. Overseas, he served as deputy chief of staff of operations at the headquarters of U.S. Army Europe in Heidelberg, Germany.

He earned a master's degree in operations research and systems analysis engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and also has attended the Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (with V device and oak leaf cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (with four oak leaf clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Southwest Asia Campaign Medal and the Liberation of Kuwait Medals (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) and the Master Parachutist Badge.

As we all pray for the swift return of our troops in the Middle East, it is important to remember the critical role Texans are assuming in this conflict.